

# Third Meeting of the Signatories to the Bukhara Deer MOU (MOS3)

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# Briefly about the status of the Bukhara deer in Turkmenistan

The species in Turkmenistan is represented by the subspecies *Cervus hanglu (elaphus) bactrianus*. In Turkmenistan, two subpopulations have survived along the Amu Darya valley - between the cities of Turkmenabat and Darganata on the border with Uzbekistan and in the tugai of Jarguzer on the border with Afghanistan. The species as Critically Endangered, it is included in the Red Book of Turkmenistan (1985, 1999, 2011 and 2024 editions). Trapping is strictly prohibited. Currently, the total number is estimated at 200 to 250 individuals.

# What are the main problems related to the conservation of Bukhara Deer in country?

Factors limiting the conservation of the Bukhara deer are natural and anthropogenic, although natural phenomena are also often associated with human activity:

Natural factors include fires, excessively cold winters leading to ice formation in the Amu Darya River, but most importantly, the fragmentation and degradation of tugai forests, the reduction of their areas as a result of overgrazing, logging, fires and floods.

# What are the main problems related to the conservation of Bukhara Deer in country?

Anthropogenic factors include economic activities (sowing, grazing), including in the immediate vicinity of the reserve, disturbance factors, and direct persecution (poaching).

Many of the habitats of the Bukhara deer (tugai) in the Amu Darya riverbed are transboundary, which is why the State Border Service of Turkmenistan has installed engineering barriers in these areas. From the point of view of species protection, this factor seems to be positive, but visits by reserve employees to these areas are extremely limited, which makes it difficult to obtain information about the condition of the deer in these areas.

## **Which measures have taken to address those problems and what are planning to do in the future?**

Explanatory work is regularly carried out among the local population about the importance of preserving the Bukhara deer, including the country's obligations as a party to international agreements - conventions and this memorandum.

Firebreaks are created annually between agricultural lands and areas of the reserve.

Material is being prepared for submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan on the creation of buffer zones around the territory of the Amu Darya Nature Reserve, at least 2-3 km wide, in order to reduce the disturbance factor and the anthropogenic pressure in general.

# **What is needed to effectively conserve Bukhara deer in country and what is needed in order to achieve that?**

If possible, it is necessary to increase protected areas covering tugai forests. Active implementation of modern methods/technologies for studying and protecting the species.

Create conditions for the free movement of individual groups of Bukhara deer along the Amu Darya River – ecological corridors.

Carrying out activities to expand favorable habitats for the Bukhara deer outside the Amu Darya River zone  
Studying the possibility of introducing the Bukhara deer into the tugai forests along the Murghab and Tedzhen river valleys.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**